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TNI: Bridging Hope and Security for Papua's Welfare Development

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PAPUA- Guided by **Presidential Instruction Number 9 of 2020**, the Indonesian Armed Forces (**TNI**) play a vital role in accelerating welfare development in Papua. The directive outlines three core missions: ensuring security, assisting regional governments in providing essential public services, and fostering inclusive Social Communication with stakeholders across the region.

The TNI has deployed specialized **Military Task Forces** to ensure the implementation of these objectives, prioritizing stability and security as the foundation for progress. A safe environment is crucial for empowering stakeholders and local communities to actively participate in Papua's development. However, this mission is fraught with challenges, particularly due to security threats posed by the **Free Papua Movement (OPM)**.

The OPM's activities have disrupted lives and delayed development efforts through intimidation, violence, and heinous crimes, including the murder of civilians and security personnel. A recent example is the tragic death of **Glen Malcolm Conning**, a New Zealand helicopter pilot, who was killed on **August 5, 2024**, while supporting regional connectivity. Despite these challenges, the TNI has consistently prioritized humanitarian actions to restore peace and rebuild trust.

On **August 6, 2024**, the TNI successfully secured Alama and evacuated victims, including health workers, teachers, and infants, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to humanitarian efforts. Likewise, the rescue of **Captain Pilot Phillip Mark Mehrstens**, a Susi Air pilot, on **September 21, 2024**, highlighted the collaborative efforts of TNI, stakeholders, and the local government in ensuring a peaceful Papua.

Colonel Yogi Nugroho, Commander of the HABEMA Media Task Forces, stated: *"The TNI's actions in Papua are deeply rooted in humanitarian principles. From securing lives to restoring peace, these operations are a testament to our commitment to creating a safe, conducive environment for Papua's welfare development."*

The Colonel emphasized that the TNI and **Polri Security Forces** remain steadfast in their mission to maintain stability and eliminate security threats posed by the OPM. Their efforts align with the Indonesian Government's overarching goal of accelerating welfare initiatives across the Papua region.

Through its integrated approach, the TNI aims to bridge security with progress, ensuring that the people of Papua can thrive in a safe, peaceful environment. Their dedication underscores the essential role of security forces in not just safeguarding, but actively shaping the future of the region.

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